



News from

# Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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## Kind Decries President Bush's Failure to Follow Through on MILC Reauthorization Promise

**WASHINGTON, DC** – U.S. Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI) issued the following statement today on President Bush's failure to take affirmative action to support the two-year extension of the Milk Income Loss Compensation (MILC) program to help Wisconsin's dairy farmers survive when milk prices plummet:

"Two days ago, President Bush came to Wisconsin to proclaim his support for extending the MILC program for our hardworking family dairy farmers," said Kind. "Today, that provision was stripped by the Republican leadership in Congress from a must-pass spending bill – the last bill to be considered until after the November election."

The Milk Income Loss Contract Program, established by the 2002 Farm bill, is the first national dairy program to transcend the usual regional tension that have arisen over past safety net proposals. The MILC provides a basic level of direct support to all dairy operations, regardless of the end use of the farmers' milk, by providing assistance only on the first 2.4 million pounds of production annually (roughly equivalent to production of a 130 cow operation). As a result, nearly 86% of all dairy farms in the country, and nearly 90% in the Upper Midwest, are fully eligible for assistance under this limit. This counter-cyclical program, designed as a national safety net for dairy farmers when milk prices are low, is threatened to expire in 2005 – two years before consideration of the next Farm bill.

"It is disappointing to have the President say one thing while campaigning in Wisconsin and then do absolutely nothing to get the job done," concluded Kind. "All it would have required was a one-minute phone call with House Speaker Hastert asking him to extend this program for an additional two years and it would have been signed into law."